What I saw at our Christmas party on December 19 for 250-plus children was a foundation of goodness! So many of you made this day a happy memory, not only for our neediest children but for their parents as well! You put smiles on their faces, joy in their hearts, and the means to a merrier Christmas. You provided wrapped gifts, filled stockings, new socks, stuffed animals, and gift cards for each family!

Heartfelt thanks to Girlfriends Care for filling the stockings; our Auxiliary and community volunteers for serving, donating, and wrapping hundreds of gifts; our extraordinary TVIA (Teen Volunteers In Action) for making our warehouse a winter wonderland, complete with a working fireplace, and for wrapping, serving, and cleaning; the staff at Legoland for two barrels of donated toys; the Soroptimist and Civitan organizations for their generosity; our own Center and Thrift Shop volunteers and employees; Linda’s Gift Shop in Carlsbad; my neighbors and friends in Carlsbad; Sue Stewart for collecting toys at her place of business; Souplantation for coupons; Barbara Troupe for knitting many hats for our children (they LOVED them); Jan Rumble for face painting; Sonya and her son for balloon art; and many, many other donors!!

Our Santa, Doug, has such a tender heart. The children loved him! And C. C. Sanders entertained us with his velvet voice singing Christmas carols. A mother and her children delivered 5,000 homemade, decorated, and bagged cookies! An amazing treat for all who came on Christmas Day!

My team helpers, Vikki Ramey and Michelle Hoppe, made all this happen!

May we all continue to share our time, talents, and love with all our hearts, and continue building brighter tomorrows!

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE
by Barbara Ladwig

A Beautiful Christmas. Santa is so accommodating. Every year, he stops at the Brother Benno Center several days before Christmas so our Guests can have a great meal together, enjoy the music and activities, and go home with gifts that would otherwise not be available to them.

Christmas 2015 included entertainment by a Recorder Quartet from the Prince of Peace Abbey, consisting of Father Paul, Dennis Pinnick, Brother Blaise, and Leigh Taylor. Jacqueline King—who sometimes sings—was there, too, because “I also do everything else that needs doing.”

Deacon Jun from St. Mary’s in Oceanside was on hand as he is on most Saturdays, in case any of our Guests feel the need to talk to someone about a problem.

In the Children’s Reading Room, volunteer Sue Sidell was helping kids decorate ornaments. When I walked in, there were three little boys hard at work, soon to be followed by a couple bigger boys and a tiny girl who had no problem deciding what color ornament she wanted, and how she wanted to decorate it.

The warehouse, decorated by many creative volunteers, was bustling with adults and children. Santa handed out new socks, a woman painted “tattoos” on lots of arms, and kids were wide-eyed with the opportunity to choose a stuffed toy and a hand-knit cap from huge arrays. There were balloon animals, stockings full of toys and candy, and the great music of C. C. Sanders.

As Helen Parsons said in an article on page 1, none of this would have been possible without the help of our many volunteers, supporters, and donors. God bless you, one and all!

Making a Home. Shortly before Christmas, a young woman and her year-old son came to Brother Benno’s for help. She said she was eight months sober and had just been able to move into an apartment but had no furniture. Her mother had brought her to the Center, and we learned that she was very instrumental in helping her daughter get her life back on track.

“I could just feel the closeness of the three of them,” said Gwen Acheson, who is in charge of our Furniture Warehouse at the Center. By the time they were ready to leave, they had picked out a couch, a dining table with four chairs, two smaller tables, and a lamp. Both women were crying, Gwen said, because they were so thankful for this unexpected windfall.

Thanks to the many donations we receive, Brother Benno’s was able to give this furniture to the young mother and son. “We even delivered everything to the apartment,” Gwen said.

A few weeks later, a thank-you card arrived at the Center with a handwritten note: “To Brother Benno’s and Gwen and the movers. Thank you for making an empty apartment a home for me and my son.” Also enclosed were several pictures of the furniture, and one of the smiling little boy sitting on the floor in front of the couch.

Giving Party. For the past three Christmas seasons, Dolly and Joseph Goulart and their children Parker (11) and Ella Mae (8) have spearheaded a “giving activity” for their neighbors and friends. They invite 30-40 parents and children to a barbecue and movie in their back yard, and the price of admission is an item that can be donated to Brother Benno’s. The first year it was children’s books; the second year, blankets.

“We collected five or six boxes of books, and a trunk-load of blankets,” Dolly said.

continued on page 3....
This past year the Goulart family was sick at Christmastime, so instead of hosting the back-yard gathering, they used the money they would have spent on food and bought socks at Costco instead.

I asked Dolly how their children have reacted to these giving opportunities. She said Parker cried when she brought them to the Center and he saw all the children in line for food. And one day when the family was at the beach, they saw a homeless man with sores on his face. They remembered they had a first-aid kit in their car with a tube of ointment in it, so they retrieved it, then decided just to give the whole kit to the man. When they left, Ella Mae said, “He needs it more than we do.”

**Cookie Ministry** is a service project started four years ago by a group of women and their children for the children in North County, according to **Joy Highley** who spearheads the project. “It isn’t Christmas unless we take part in this holiday tradition,” she said.

When she learns the drop-off date at Brother Benno’s—usually the Saturday of the family Christmas Party at the Center—all the kitchens of the participants become “cookie factories.” This year, in one week, they made 5,000 cookies!

“Cookies are put into stickered baggies with a ribbon and Scripture verse tied to it,” Joy said. “The kids help baking, putting stickers on the bags, and cutting ribbons and Scripture verses.”

The original crew that bakes cookies every year and keeps the ministry going are **Joy Highley, Yvonne Hamquist, Janette McClintock, Melissa Garza-Vansant, Lisa Senkbeil, Dulce Gangani, Mary Hansen, Jennifer Bjordahl, Patty Billingsly and their children**. Added this year were **Darlene Yim, Melissa Ramsey, Julie Morris, Patti Sego, Patti Norman, Jayne Monahan, and their children**.

“It has become our yearly mission that we share with our kids,” Joy said, “and we hope they will continue with their and kids and friends.”

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**Leaving a Legacy to Continue the Work Of Brother Benno’s**

Planned Giving is a generic term that covers the many ways an individual or couple can give to a charity while, in many cases, avoiding taxes. A few examples of planned giving are Wills, Living Trusts, Designated Beneficiary Accounts, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds and Real Estate.

Charitable Giving to Brother Benno’s is one way of helping us raise the resources necessary to continue our service to the poor and also help plan for our future needs. Gifts of this nature are very beneficial and much appreciated by Brother Benno’s.

For more information please contact:

Frank Doherty at 760 439-1244, ext 120, or 760 804-1948, email dohertyfe@aol.com.

**Mother Teresa, Her Essential Wisdom**

“To smile at someone who is sad; to visit, even for a little while, someone who is lonely; to give someone shelter from the rain with our umbrella; to read something for someone who is blind; these and others can be small things, very small things, but they are appropriate to give our love of God concrete expression to the poor.”

“Sometimes people can hunger for more than bread. It is possible that our children, our husband, our wife, do not hunger for bread, do not need clothes, do not lack a house. But are we equally sure that none of them feels alone, abandoned, neglected, needing some affection? That, too, is poverty.”

“I cannot forget my mother. She was usually very busy all day long. But when sunset drew near, it was her custom to hurry with her tasks in order to be ready to receive my father. At the time we did not understand, and we would smile and even joke a little about it. Today I cannot help but call to mind the great delicacy of love that she had for him. No matter what happened, she was always prepared, with a smile on her lips, to welcome him.”
AUXILIARY NEWS
by Carol Sanford

Due to popular demand, we are returning to Shadowridge Country Club (1980 Gateway Drive in Vista) for our Annual Membership Drive. It is being held on Wednesday, February 24, from 10 to noon, as a Brunch this year. Spearheading this event is our Vice-President Nita Rodriguez, who came well prepared for her job as Membership Chair when she was elected in November!

We all know that active volunteers are what make our Auxiliary work, and we also know there are others out there who just need to know what Brother Benno’s does for our community, and they WILL join us! So, talk to your friends and neighbors and bring them with you to this Brunch for a festive way to start the New Year by doing some good!

Send $20 for each person, checks payable to Brother Benno’s Auxiliary, to Nita Rodriguez, 2399 Jefferson St., #23, Carlsbad, CA 92008, to reserve your places. Questions? Call her at 760-994-0355.

And if you haven’t already sent in your annual dues of $10 a year, or $150 for a lifetime with us, send a separate check to Nita as well, to make sure that you are included in the 2016 Members Directory, which will be printed soon. It just might contain photos of each of us this year!?? We’ll finally put faces to names? Really?

While you’re at your calendar, circle Saturday, March 26, for our annual Applebee’s Fundraiser, which is always fun for those who eat and also for those of us who serve those de-licious edibles to all our supportive guests. Only $10 per person for a full breakfast!

Please Note: The Membership Brunch will take the place of our usual monthly meeting for February. The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23, at 1 p.m. social time, 1:30 meeting with a guest speaker.

I hope to see you at EACH of these events! Let’s make this, the Brother Benno Auxiliary’s 20th year, a memorable one for attendance.

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Information & Online donations: brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:
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Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do

My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: $________ (make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)
In memory of: ____________________________
Please send a card to:

(name)________________________
(address)________________________

For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.): ____________________________
Send a card to: (name)________________________
(address)________________________

Or, donate online at http://brotherbenno.org

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:
The Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name___________________________________       Donation $______________
Address_________________________________
City, State, Zip Code_____________________
Number of copies______________________
Memorials

Ron Alexander  Alice Jordan  Milton Silver  Gilbert Brown
Frank Barnet  Ben Kouns  Will Skinner  Jim Bender
Brother Benno  Richard Kurtz  Mike Stendahl  Donald Deffenbaugh
Edith Blaiser  Carole Kutler  Margaret Stephan  Helen, Walt, & Beau
Andrea Boersma  Kay Kutler  Virginia Sylwestrzak  McEwen
Roland Bond  Bill & Louise Lakoff  Mother Teresa  Mary Gerrity
Bill Boster  Ben E. Lewis  Harold Thompson  John Michael Ellis
Agnus & Joan Boyd  Helen Lucas  Rosemary Tucker  Mary Ann Kennedy
Bill Buckner  Bill & Joan Maloney  Walter Ulloa  Gloria Orofino
Deacon Art & Mary Carr  Helene McGill  Fred Williamson  Peggy Miville
Mary Teresa Carr  Michael & Monty  Zeferino & Dancy  Jim Sweeney
Anna Correia  Nares  Nyeawnder Family  Mary Jo Young
Don & Dorothea Daybell  Mary Nordstrom  Nysewander Family  Jane Deakin
Phyllis H. Dierlam  Bud & Blanche Ogle  Squirrel Family  Agatha Johnson
Anita H. Donahue  Pope John Paul II  Anne MacDonald  Roseanne Dreibelbis
Dorothy M. Donahue  Kathryn D. Pent  Souls in Purgatory  Fr. Luke Dougherty
Fr. Luke Dougherty  Mary Peterson  Fred Hilton  Plato & Joan Boyd
Roseanette Dreipelbis  Jane Pflau  Catherine & Joe  Richard Kurtz
Fr. Abbot Claude  Ruth Hazel Pierson  Martina  Carole Kutler
Ehringer, OSB  Mary Pullman  Louise & George  Bill Boster
Myron Eichen  Catherine L. Quinlan  Casperson  Agatha Johnson
Richard Farquhar  Dora Ramirez  Virginia Banks  Agatha Johnson
William & Vennita  Dick & Terry Riley  Josefinna Rodriguez  Sr. Natalie Berthea
Flanagan  Margaret Rossini  Andrew & Horst  Sr. Natalie Berthea
Louise Foussat  Ann Sauer  Zuther  Sr. Natalie Berthea
Joe & Ida Friend  Mary Shankle  Dorothy & Walter Jellig  Sr. Natalie Berthea
Mary Gerrity  Naomi Shelton  Bill Foran  Sr. Natalie Berthea
Bob Gleason  Bernice, Samuel & Dale Nicholson
Tom Hayward  Nares  George Means  Sr. Natalie Berthea

Needs

Gently used furniture  Diapers  Rain ponchos & blankets
Men’s Hoodies, sizes XL and XXL  Bottled Water  Catholic Daughters

IN GRATEITUDE FOR
Four wonderful children

IN HONOR OF
Rev. Bill Barman  Lois Berning  Girlfriend’s Care
John Jarvie  Peter Ring  St. Thomas More
Marcus Brogan  Harold Kutler  Men of Nativity
Sr. Natalie Berthea  Girls’ Service Club

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside  760-967-2742 Open Tues. - Sat. 9 am to Noon
We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.
Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you are viewing this online you can donate by going to brotherbenno.org and click on Donations. This will allow you to make a secure donation using PayPal or a Credit Card.

Your donation is used each month at our main center and eight operational houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, laundry facilities, bus vouchers, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security, and veterans’ issues, food packs, men and women’s drug and alcohol recovery program, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. We thank you for your continued support. 100% of your contribution goes directly to assist those we serve. Our modest administration costs are paid for by our Thrift Store revenues.

www.brotherbenno.org

Brother Benno’s Thrift Shop
(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)
Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture
Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!
3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

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Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>December 2015</th>
<th>Our 32nd Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
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<td>Bus passes</td>
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December 2015      | Our 32nd Year
Loads of laundry  | 27            | 27,235
Food packs        | 1,720         | 291,880
Blankets          | 168           | 39,584
Prescriptions     | 7             | 7,281
ID Vouchers       | 13            | 8,812
HUGS              | 1,800         | 911,344